CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 19 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALGERIA ADDRESSED TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING EXTRACTS RELATING TO DISARMAMENT FROM THE FINAL DECLARATION OF THE 35TH SUMMIT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, HELD IN ALGIERS FROM 12 TO 14 JULY 1999, AS WELL AS RELATED DECISIONS ADOPTED AT THE SUMMIT

I have the honour to forward to you the attached extracts relating to disarmament from the Final Declaration of the thirty-fifth summit of the Organization of African Unity, held in Algiers from 12 to 14 July 1999, as well as related decisions adopted on that occasion.

I would be grateful if you would ensure that these texts are published in an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to the member States and observers at the Conference.

(Signed) Mohamed-Salah DEMBRI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.99-65751 (E)

Extracts of the final Declaration
Of the 35th Summit of the OAU
(Algiers, 12 -14 july 1999)

« We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in Algiers, Algeria, from 12 to 14 July 1999, solemny declare :

(...) We believe that the nuclear disarmament issue and the elimination of other weapons of mass destruction remain a challenge and a crucial urgent problem facing the international community, and to which a definitive and lasting solution can be found only through general and comprehensive disarmament, under strict and effective international control. Africa has always demonstrated its readiness to bring its contribution to bear on this process, as evidenced by the conclusion and implementation of the Pelindaba Treaty. This important step taken by Africa should be complemented by establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East taking into account the interdependance between the security in both regions.

We believe that illegal movement, proliferation and trafficking of light weapons constitue another threat to the peace and security of the continent, and we commit ourselves to combat this scourge and lend our support to the regional and international mechanisms charged with preventing and combating this phenomenon. ».

Decision on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons

The Assembly :

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report ;

2. **ADOPTS** the proposals contained therein ;

3. **HAILS** the Declaration on the moratorium on the import, export and manufacture of light weapons adopted in ABUJA on October 1998 by Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) ;

4. **WELCOMES** the appeal contained in the said Declaration CALLING ON the OUA to support implementation of the moratorium and ENCOURAGE similar initiatives in other regions of the continent ;

5. **WELCOMES** the initiatives being undertaken by member States and regional Organizations concerning the question of small arms, in particular, the ECOWAS moratorium on small arms, the destruction of surplus and obsolet small arms in South Africa and the destruction of illicit weapons in Mozambique ;

6. **FURTHER WELCOMES** the work of the United Nations, through its Group of Experts on Small Arms and the draft Protocol on the Illicite Manufacturing of and circulation, proliferation and trafficking in Firearmes, Ammunitions and other related materials, supplementary to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime ; the European Union, through its joint Action on Small Arms ; and the Organization of American States, through its Convention against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking, in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related Materials ;

7. **APPEALS** to the international Community to render to the African countries all necessary assistance to enable them to implement programmes to effectively deal with the problems associated with the proliferation of small arms and light weapons ;

8. **REITERATES** the urgency and the need for inter-African cooperation in addressing the problems associated with the illicit use, transfer and manufacture of small arms and light weapons, and EMPAHISES the primary role the OAU can play in co-ordinating actions in those affected areas ;

9. **URGES** the Secretary-General to further seek the views of Member States on the illicit trafficking, circulation and proliferation of small arms and light weapons, in particular, to seek their views on actions to be undertaken ;

10. **CALLS** for a coordinated African approach to the problems posed by the illicit trafficking, circulation and proliferation of small arms, under the OAU, taking into account the regional experiences and activities in this matter ;

11. **STRESSES** the impact of the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of light weapons on the increased involvement of children as soldiers and the psycho-social trauma thereof and the need to comply with the African Charter for the Rights and Welfare of Children and the Convention on the Rights of the Child ;

12. **FURTHER APPEALS** to all Member States and to the International Community to assist in the psycho-social rehabilitation of children who have been affected by trafficking, circulation and the proliferation of light weapons ;

13. **REQUESTS** the OAU Secretariat to organize, to that effect a preparatory conference on this matter at ministerial level, prior to the international Conference scheduled for the year 2001 and to seek the support of the relevant UN agencies and other actors concerned, so as to evolve an African common approach ;

14. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to report to the next Session of the Council of Ministers.

Decision on the « First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of the Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction »

The Assembly :

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the relevant information contained in the Report of the Secretary-General on the « First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their destruction », held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 3-7 May 1999 ;

2. **CONSCIOUS** that the isue of anti-personnel mines constitutes a major public health threat and a source of concern in the international political agenda, requiring a global approach in order to address the negative effects of these deadly devices ;

3. **COMMENDS** the rapid entry-into-force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and their destruction,

4. **RECOGNIZES** that the proliferation of anti-personnel mines constitutes an issue of insecurity which affects free circulation of people and goods in affected countries ;

5. **EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN** for the devasting effects of anti-personnel mines on human lives and their negative impact on the country's economic development ;

6. **COMMENDS** all States parties to the Convention ;

7. **CALLS UPON** all countries which have note done so to sign and ratify the Convention ;

8. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** for the outcome of the Maputo meeting ;

9. **SUPPORTS FIRMLY** the objectives and purposes enshrined in the « Maputo Declaration » ;

10. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to continue to sensitize Member States to contribute to the effective implementation of the Convention.

Decision on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

The Assembly :

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made since its thirty-fourth Ordinary Session in efforts to consolidate the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa ;

2. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the appointment by the the UN Secretary-General of a Director of the Centre ;

3. **REAFFIRMS ITS UNWAVERING SUPPORT** for the revitalization of the Centre and underscores the need to provide it with the necessary ressources to enable it to consolidate its activities and implement its programmes ;

4. **FURTHER REAFFIRMS** the need to establish close collaboration between the Centre and the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution on the one hand, and, on the other, between the Centre and the Sub-regional organizations working for peace, security and development :

5. **ONCE AGAIN INVITES** the General Secretariat to establish close cooperation with the Centre ;

6. **URGES** Member States and the International Community to support the Centre by making financial contributions to it and assisting it in any other way to help in the promotion of its activities ans effectiveness ;

7. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-general to report to its 36th Ordinary Session.